# III. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- *PLEASE FIND BELOW A MARKED VERSION OF CLAIMS WITH PRESENT STATUS DELINEATED*

    - *THE CLAIMS ARE HEREIN AMENDED, CANCELED, OR ADDED TO, SO AS TO EVENTUATE IN THE NEW SET OF PENDING CLAIMS INDICATED BELOW. THIS LISTING OF CLAIMS WILL REPLACE ALL PRIOR VERSIONS AND LISTING OF CLAIMS IN THE APPLICATION.*

1. – 28.: **(CANCELED)**

29.: **(NEW)** A method of making silver chain which comprises:

forming lengths of silver wire into successive chain links whose ends abut;

closing said chain links, using a laser to perform a process on the abuted ends selected from the list consisting of brazing and welding;

wherein said silver wire comprises at least 92.5 wt% Ag and about 0.5 to about 3 wt% Ge.

30.: **(NEW)** The method of claim 29, wherein the composition of said silver wire is constant across the cross section.

31.: **(NEW)** The method of claim 29, wherein the diameter of said silver wire is within the range of 0.008 cm to 0.20 cm (0.003 inches to 0.08 inches)

32.: **(NEW)** The method of claim 30, wherein said silver wire further comprises 1 to 40 parts per million of elemental Boron, and the balance Cu, apart from incidental ingredients and/or impurities.

33.: **(NEW)** The method of claim 30, wherein said silver wire comprises at least 92.5 wt% Ag, about 6.3 wt% Cu, 1.2 wt% Ge, 4 to 8 parts per million elemental Boron, apart from incidental ingredients and/or impurities.

34.: **(NEW)** The method of claim 30, wherein said silver wire comprises between 93.5 wt% and 95.5 wt% Ag, 0.5 to 3 wt% Ge, 1 to 40 parts per million elemental Boron, and the balance Cu, apart from incidental ingredients and/or impurities.

35.: **(NEW)** The method of claim 30, wherein said silver wire comprises about 94.5 wt% Ag, 1.2 wt% Ge, 4 to 8 parts per million elemental Boron, and the balance Cu, apart from incidental ingredients and/or impurities.

36.: **(NEW)** The method of claim 29, wherein the said silver wire has a core selected from the group consisting of solder core and brazing core.

37.: **(NEW)** The method of claim 36, wherein the non-core portion of the said silver wire comprises 0.5 to 3 wt% Ge, and the balance Ag, apart from incidental ingredients and/or impurities.

38.: **(NEW)** The method of claim 37, wherein said non-core portion of said silver wire comprises about 1.0 wt% Ge.

39.: **(NEW)** The method of claim 36, wherein said core comprises a silver brazing alloy.

40.: **(NEW)** The method of claim 39, wherein said silver brazing alloy comprises at least 55 wt% Ag, and between 0.5 wt% and 3 wt% Ge.

41.: **(NEW)** The method of claim 39, wherein said silver brazing alloy comprises 0.1 wt% to 0.3 wt% Boron.

42.: **(NEW)** The method of claim 36, wherein said alloy core has a solidus temperature of about 600 degrees C to about 705 degrees C and a liquidus temperature of about 650 degrees C to about 725 degrees C.

43.: **(NEW)** The method of claim 36, wherein said alloy core has a solidus temperature of about 600 degrees C to about 630 degrees C and a liquidus temperature of about 650 degrees C to about 680 degrees C to 725 degrees C.

44.: **(NEW)** The method of claim 29, wherein the said laser has a power in the range of 20 Watts to 80 Watts.

45.: **(NEW)** The method of claim 29, wherein the said links are closed at a rate of 100 to 250 links per minute.

46.: **(NEW)** The method of claim 29, further comprising the step of annealing said chain links, prior to welding, in an oxidizing atmosphere.

47.: **(NEW)** The method of claim 46, wherein said oxidizing atmosphere is chosen from a group consisting of air and a selectively oxidizing atmosphere.

48.: **(NEW)** The method of claim 46, wherein said oxidizing atmosphere is a wet selectively oxidizing atmosphere.

49.: **(NEW)** The method of claim 48 wherein said wet selectively oxidizing atmosphere is chosen from a group consisting of hydrogen gas and moisture; carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide; nitrogen and hydrogen and carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide and methane and moisture; argon and oxygen; and nitrogen and oxygen.

50.: **(NEW)** The method of claim 48, wherein the said wet selectively oxidizing atmosphere has a dew point of at least plus 1 degree C.

51.: **(NEW)** The method of claim 50, wherein the said wet selectively oxidizing atmosphere has a dew point of between plus 1 degree C and plus 80 degrees C.

52.: **(NEW)** The method of claim 50, wherein the said wet selectively oxidizing atmosphere has a dew point of between plus 2 degrees C and plus 50 degrees C.

53.: **(NEW)** A silver chain which comprises lengths of silver wire formed into successive links whose ends abut and are closed by brazed or welded joints, wherein said silver wire comprises at least 92.5 wt% Ag and about 0.5 wt% to 3.0 wt% Ge.